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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic) REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Naval Vessels in the Baltic DATE DISTR. 15 August 1958

NO. PAGES 4

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

D

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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COUNTRY USSR REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Naval Vessels in the Baltic DATE OF REPORT 6 May 1958

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DATE OF INFO LAST REPORT ON SUBJECT
(If applicable)

EVALUATION OF ANNEXES

APPRAISAL OF

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1. [redacted] cruiser [redacted] of the SVERDLOV Class was observed drifting at 55°01'N/19°27'E. [redacted] the vessel repeatedly went astern at full speed. The cruiser remained at this position, presumably without dropping anchor [redacted]
2. [redacted] four Soviet destroyers, presumably of the KOTLIN Class, were seen approximately at 55°10'N/19°47'E without making way. Subsequently, two of these destroyers ran westward at full speed, and, approximately at 55°10'N/19°35'E, one destroyer changed to southern and later eastern course. The two other destroyers ran at full speed in north-south and/or east-west direction from north and/or south of their home position, outlining squares with a side length of at least 10 nautical miles. [redacted] cruiser [redacted] had changed to 55°01'N/19°26'E, turned from about 200° to a course 20° at high speed. On this course, the vessel fired two salvos at an unknown target from the after turrets at an interval of only a few seconds. Immediately after the salvos had been fired, the cruiser, which was approximately at 55°11'N/19°30'E, turned toward portside, and at high speed, went on counter-course, making a circle of about 600 meters. During the discharge, the barrels of the two turrets had been elevated about 40°, but were immediately lowered afterwards (loading position?). After the salvos had been fired, destroyer [redacted] approached the turning point of the cruiser from the east, turning there hard-a-port, and going on a southeastern course at high speed. The vessel was heeling over to such an extent that the starboard deck was awash. Destroyer [redacted] from a northwestern position, also approached the turning point [redacted] at high speed, following the latter. The destroyer which had outlined her square south of the home position, joined destroyers [redacted]. The whereabouts of the fourth destroyer could not be determined.
3. [redacted] cruiser [redacted] was seen approximately at 55°02'N/19°40'E. [redacted] two destroyers were observed near cruiser [redacted] running on different courses north and west of the cruiser at high speed. [redacted] destroyer [redacted] presumably of the KOTLIN Class,

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was seen at 55°02'N/19°30'E, running on a northern course at high speed. The destroyer turned to the opposite course at about 55°25'N/19°30'E and, [] was approximately at 55°10'N/19°30'E, continuing on a southern course. [] a tug towing a target was seen approximately at 55°03'N/19°32'E on a northern course, making 7 knots. At about 55°13'N/19°32'E, the tug turned to a southern course. [] a salvo of two rounds was fired at the target by an unknown ship at 55°08'N/19°32'E. The impacts were observed 40 meters before and beyond, however in line with the center of the target. The target was about 30 meters high, and 100 meters long, and was apparently mounted on rather wide (20 meters?) concrete boxes, lying one behind the other and 4 to 5 meters apart. [] cruiser [] was floating without speed approximately at 54°52'N/19°22'E.

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4. The following description was given of cruiser [] one deck raised in line with first stack, and, astern, one deck lowered in line with turret. Two triple turrets each on fore deck and quarterdeck; the barrels were in a horizontal position; no other guns observed. Forward of first stack, tripod mast with two radars; forward of second stack, one bipod mast; radars similar to those on fore mast plus additional radar with normal screen; a cylindrical bag, apparently of metal, with a dark-grey coat of paint and of the same length as the screen, was connected with the screen and projected horizontally from one side; another bag, possibly only a third of the length of the first bag, extended from the other side; this radar pointed forward and was the only rotating device, needing four and a half seconds for one revolution. Destroyer [] was described as follows: All destroyers were of identical type and had a continuous deck, square stern; ball-shaped gun-control position on the bridge; 20 to 30 members of the crew on the bridge of each destroyer; empty decks. []

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Comment. The fact that only two salvos were fired per run and that at least in the second case, the impacts were close to the target, is worth noting and tends to indicate efficient range finding procedures (radar) and good fire control. Cruiser [] belongs to the SVERDLOV Class and is stationed in Baltiyak. Destroyers [] have been confirmed as SKORYEs, while [] belongs to the KOTLIN Class. []

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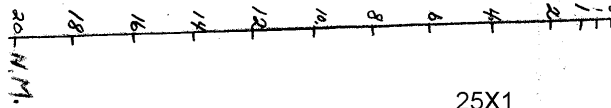
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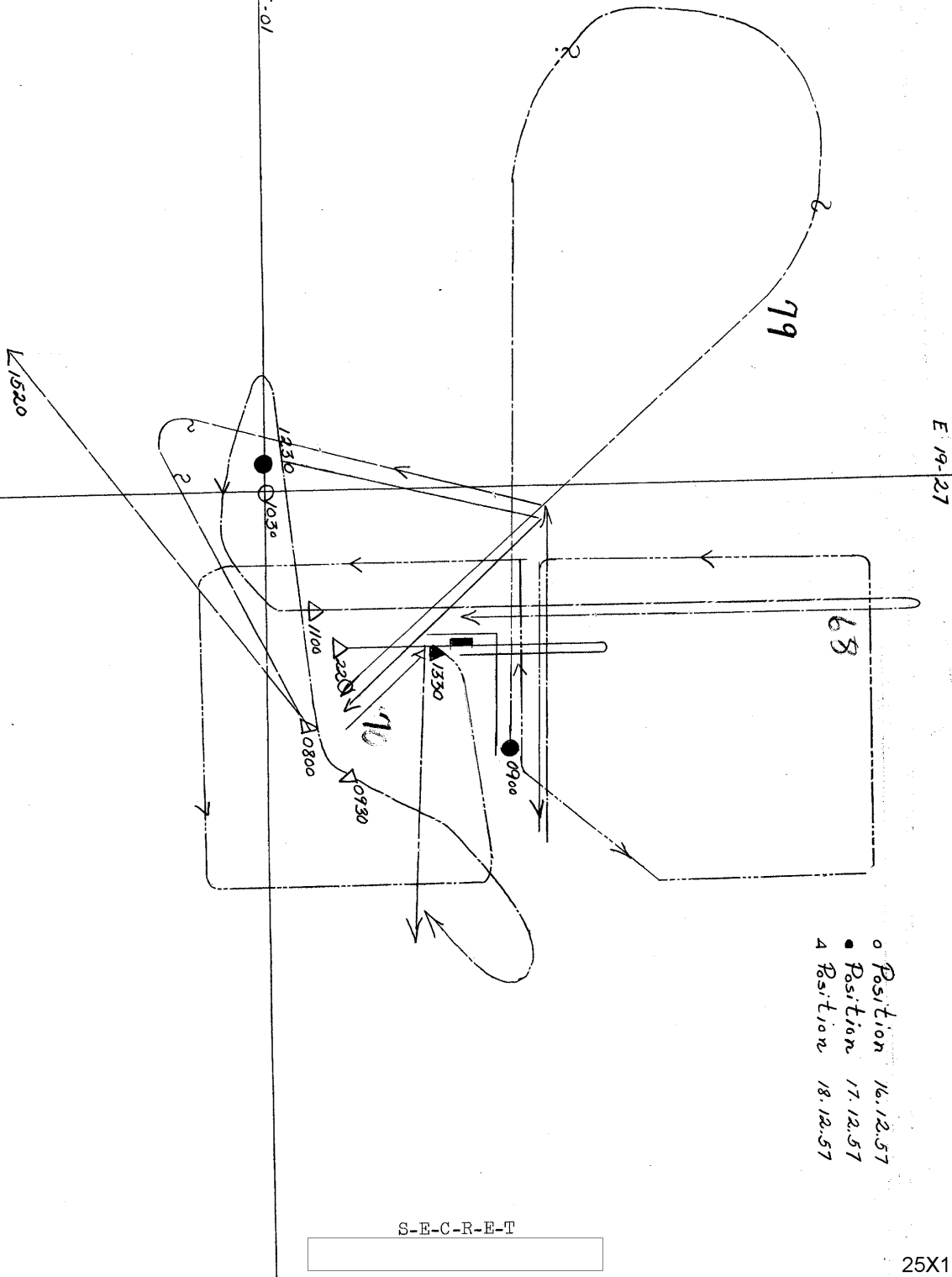
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Pattern for Firing Practice Used
by Cruiser [] and Two Destroyers



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- o Position 16.12.57
- Position 17.12.57
- Δ Position 18.12.57

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